

The MURRELET



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Contents

Summer Birds in Southern Idaho, <i>Seymour H. Levy</i>	2
An Abnormally Colored Townsend Chipmunk, <i>Arthur Stribla and Earl J. Larrison</i>	9
European Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>) at Medina, King County, Washington, <i>Walter Hagenstein</i>	11
Albinistic Barn Swallow in Benton County, Oregon, <i>Fred G. Evenden, Jr., and Robert M. Storm</i>	11
Barred Color Pattern in a Juvenal Western Crow, <i>Derek D. Earp</i>	11
Notes on Common Murres Nesting in British Columbia, <i>C. J. Guignet</i>	12
Red-breasted Merganser in Eastern Washington, <i>Charles F. Yocom</i>	13
Parasitic Birds, <i>Theed Pearse</i>	14
A Preliminary Report on an Endourethral Cast in Beaver, <i>Gardiner F. Jones</i>	15
Grizzly Bear Killed in Washington, <i>Victor B. Scheffer</i>	15
Porpoises Assembling in the North Pacific Ocean, <i>Victor B. Scheffer</i>	16
Additions to Society Library	16, 17
Comments and News	17
Society Meetings	17

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SUMMER BIRDS IN SOUTHERN IDAHO

SEYMOUR H. LEVY

While working for the Idaho State Fish and Game Department during the summer of 1949, I was able to keep accurate notes of the birds seen in that state. Thomas D. Burleigh, who is now working on birds in Idaho, suggested that I publish my notes as a contribution to the ornithology of the state. Most of my field work was done during June, July, and August in the south-central counties; trips on week-ends took me into more distant areas. Positive identification of races is given only when specimens were collected.

Shorebirds, herons, gulls, ducks, and other waterfowl are best observed at Wilson Lake Reservoir located near Hazelton in Jerome County. The reservoir is formed by high water in an irrigation canal overflowing onto lowlands. During the latter part of the summer water is at a premium and the reservoir partly dries up, leaving many sandbars and mudflats. Greene's Trout Farm is a privately owned bird paradise near Twin Falls. This area consists of a chain of three lakes connected by waterways. Two of the lakes have rank growths of marsh vegetation while the other has much open water. The Silent City of Rocks is located south and west of Albion in Cassia County. It is as impressive and unique as the name implies, and offers a very interesting variety of bird life. The area is characterized by large, high masses of rocks upon which grow large stands of juniper and mountain mahogany, with a smaller amount of pinon pine, white-bark pine, and aspen. Gray's Lake, which is north of Soda Springs and in Bonneville and Caribou counties, is a large lake almost entirely overgrown with marsh vegetation. Sandhill cranes, shore birds, and at least fourteen species of ducks nest here. Ida Vada is located in southeastern Owyhee County, almost in Nevada. Sagebrush and cheat grass characterize this area as well as most of the other parts of southern Idaho. The river bottoms support thick groves of juniper, cottonwood, and aspen.

Common Loon (*Gavia immer* (Brunnich)). An apparently immature bird was seen at Wilson Lake Reservoir on July 12, probably a straggler from one of the higher mountain lakes.

Eared Grebe (*Colymbus caspicus* Habbel). A common breeding bird on larger lakes, irrigation canals, and rivers. Many were seen at Wilson Lake on July 12, and at Gray's Lake on July 19.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis* (Lawrence)). A common breeding bird in suitable localities, especially at Wilson Lake Reservoir. Adults with young were seen on the Snake River near Burley, Cassia County, on July 8.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps* (Linnaeus)). A pair was seen at Cary Lake, Blaine County, on June 4, and several were observed at Wilson Lake on July 18. It appears to be an uncommon breeder on shallower lakes.

White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos* Gmelin). Common along the Snake River and on larger lakes; no evidence was found of its breeding in this area. Several were seen at Wilson Lake on August 7.

Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus* (Lesson)). Fairly common late summer visitant to larger lakes and rivers. About 25 were seen in one flock at Wilson Lake on August 10.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias* Linnaeus). Widely distributed and common summer resident in proper habitats throughout the area. No evidence of their breeding was found.

Brewster's Egret (*Leucophoyx thula brewsteri* (Thayer and Bangs)). Common late summer visitant. One was collected near Burley on July 8.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax* (Linnaeus)). An uncommon summer resident along irrigation canals and in coulees. Many were found at Greene's Trout Farm on August 7.

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus* (Montagu)). Uncommon and very locally distributed, due mainly to lack of suitable habitat. One was seen in the cattails growing along an irrigation canal near Jerome on July 3.

White-faced Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis mexicana* (Gmelin)). Uncommon late summer visitant. One was taken on August 7 at Wilson Lake Reservoir.

Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis* (Linnaeus)). Uncommon, locally distributed, breeding bird. Many were seen on Fish Creek Reservoir, Blaine County, on June 4, and several hundred were seen on Blackfoot Reservoir, Caribou County, on July 17.

Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos* Linnaeus). An abundant breeding bird wherever water is found.

Gadwall (*Anas strepera* Linnaeus). A common breeding bird of the marshes and ponds. They were especially abundant at Gray's Lake, and at Cary Lake, in Blaine County.

Baldpate (*Mareca americana* (Gmelin)). A common breeding bird, found on all lakes and marshes.

Pintail (*Anas acuta* Linnaeus). A common breeder in the marshes and ponds.

Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis* Gmelin). Widely distributed, but never as common as the other ducks.

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors* Linnaeus). Fairly common summer resident. The fact that this species and *Anas cyanoptera* are almost identical after the post-nuptial moult make positive identification in the field impossible. Therefore, all the records I have are for early summer when the males still have distinguishing plumages.

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera* Vieillot). Judging from the records of this species and the preceding during the spring and early summer, the cinnamon is the more common breeder of the two species.

Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata* (Linnaeus)). Uncommon and local breeding bird. They were observed with young at Cary Lake on June 4 and at Gray's Lake on July 17.

Redhead (*Aythya americana* (Eyton)). Common to almost abundant breeder. This bird has made an amazing comeback from the low population of a few years back.

Canvas-back (*Aythya valisineria* (Wilson)). Uncommon breeding species on the larger marshes and lakes.

Lesser Scaup Duck (*Aythya affinis* (Eyton)). Uncommon and local. Individuals were seen at Cary Lake on June 4 and at Gray's Lake on July 17.

Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis* (Gmelin)). Very common and widely distributed.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus* (Linnaeus)). Rare and very local summer resident, due mainly to limited breeding sites.

American Merganser (*Mergus merganser* Linnaeus). Rare and local summer visitant. It possibly breeds near some of the higher, faster mountain streams or along the Snake River. Only one bird was seen, in some very fast water in an irrigation canal near Jerome on July 2.

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura* (Linnaeus)). Fairly common in open country where dead jack rabbits form the bulk of their diet. They possibly breed in the Silent City of Rocks area.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus* Vieillot). Breeding in higher elevations where conifers offer nesting sites.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis* (Gmelin)). A common breeding hawk of the forest edge and Snake River breaks. A nest with four young was found near Wendell, Gooding County, on June 10.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni* Bonaparte). Common summer resident, especially in the arid sagebrush areas.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos* (Linnaeus)). Found mainly in unpopulated areas, especially where rocky formations afford nesting sites. A pair was seen in the Silent City of Rocks area on June 19.

Marsh Hawk (*Circus cyaneus* (Linnaeus)). Especially abundant in the irrigated and naturally marshy areas.

Prairie Falcon (*Falco mexicanus* Schlegel). Uncommon, in the Snake River breaks and high rocky regions. A nesting pair was found in the Silent City of Rocks on June 21.

Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus* Tunstall). Rare for this region in the summer. A few pairs possibly breed in the Snake River breaks. An adult, that appeared to be a female, was seen on July 7 at Wilson Lake, feeding on shore birds.

Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius* Linnaeus). An uncommon breeding bird in this part of the state.

Blue Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus* (Say)). Fairly common resident in the higher mountain areas.

Sage Hen (*Centrocercus urophasianus* (Bonaparte)). Common resident in sagebrush flats, especially in areas away from habitation.

European Partridge (*Perdix perdix* (Linnaeus)). Locally common resident in agricultural districts.

Ring-necked Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus* Gmelin). Common to abundant resident in agricultural areas.

Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis* (Linnaeus)). Though very restricted and local in its breeding haunts, this species is fairly common in areas where it does nest. Six birds were seen feeding in a pasture with cattle near Gray's Lake on July 17.

Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola* Vieillot). Young birds were seen at Greene's Trout Farm on August 1. They are probably restricted to larger cattail marshes during the breeding season.

Sora (*Porzana carolina* (Linnaeus)). Commonly breeding on marsh lands and sloughs. A bird was taken at Greene's Trout Farm on August 1.

American Coot (*Fulica americana* (Gmelin)). Abundant summer resident, breeding in suitable areas. A nest of eight eggs was found near Jerome on July 2.

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius hiaticula semipalmatus* Bonaparte). A female was collected at Wilson Lake Reservoir on July 22. It was the only one seen in southern Idaho, and appears to be the first record for the state. I saw a group of six at Rose Lake, Kootenai County, on August 29. This species may well be a regular migrant not noticed previously.

Killdeer Plover (*Charadrius vociferus* (Linnaeus)). Abundant summer resident, found almost everywhere, even at great distances from water.

Wilson's Snipe (*Capella gallinago delicata* (Ord)). Common summer resident in wet fields and marshy areas. One bird was collected at Greene's Trout Farm on August 13.

Spotted Sandpiper (*Achtis macularia* (Linnaeus)). Common summer resident in suitable areas.

Western Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus* (Brewster)). Commonly breeding on larger sloughs and marshes. One was collected at Gray's Lake on July 17. Large flocks were seen at Wilson Lake in August.

Greater Yellowlegs (*Totanus melanoleucus* (Gmelin)). Fairly common throughout the summer. As with so many other shore birds, the late spring migrants and early fall migrants overlap so that they appear to be summer residents.

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Totanus flavipes* (Gmelin)). Uncommon, early fall migrant.

Least Sandpiper (*Erolia minutilla* (Vieillot)). Uncommon, early migrant, one or two birds usually occurring in larger flocks of western sandpipers.

Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus* (Say)). Fairly common migrant; as many as 25 in a flock were seen. Two were collected, one at Wilson Lake on July 22 and the other at Greene's Trout Farm on August 13.

Western Sandpiper (*Ereunetes maurii* Cabanis). Abundant migrant, occurring in very large flocks.

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa* (Linnaeus)). Rare in this part of the country. A single individual was seen at Wilson Lake on July 18.

Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana* Gmelin). Common summer resident in suitable habitats. A flock of over 50 was seen at Wilson Lake on July 22.

Wilson's Phalarope (*Steganopus tricolor* Vieillot). Common summer resident, nesting in marshy areas quite abundantly.

Northern Phalarope (*Lobipes lobatus* (Linnaeus)). Uncommon fall migrant, but occurs in large flocks. A group of more than 30 was seen at Wilson Lake on July 27, of which three specimens were collected.

California Gull (*Larus californicus* Lawrence). Common summer resident along the Snake River and larger bodies of water. I could not find any evidence of its breeding.

Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis* Ord). Uncommon summer resident on lakes and reservoirs; there was no evidence of its breeding.

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan* Wagler). Common in suitable habitats. The only breeding record is from Gray's Lake where a large colony is established.

Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri* Nuttall). This bird can be observed almost anywhere in southern Idaho where open water exists. One was collected at Wilson Lake on July 7.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia* (Pallas)). Though uncommon in relation to the numbers of Forster's terns, this species was seen in limited numbers at almost every lake visited.

Black Tern (*Chlidonias nigra* (Linnaeus)). Commonly breeding in marshes and tule swamps.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura* (Linnaeus)). An abundant and wide-spread breeding bird of this part of the state.

Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus* (Gmelin)). Appeared to be restricted to less settled areas, probably due to persecution. A bird was seen in the Wood River breaks below Magic Dam, Blaine County, on July 31.

Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia* (Molina)). Common on waste and uncultivated lands. A group of 12 was seen near Filer, Twin Falls County, on August 4.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus* (Pontoppidan)). Uncommon, found generally in farming areas, where it nests in hay fields.

Poor-will (*Phalaenoptilus nuttallii* (Audubon)). I did not see this bird, but heard its unmistakable call on numerous occasions.

Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor* (Forster)). Abundant and widespread, preferring open sagebrush hills.

White-throated Swift (*Aeronautes saxatalis* (Woodhouse)). Uncommon breeder, restricted to the Snake River breaks and high rocky habitats. A colony is established in the Silent City of Rocks.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri* (Bourcier and Mulsant)). Apparently a rare breeding bird for this area. I have but one sight record, a single male, at the Silent City of Rocks on June 21. This individual appeared to have set up a territory and a "perch" as it returned regularly to the same place after being frightened repeatedly.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope* (Gould)). Common summer resident, occurring even in the larger cities.

Belted Kingfisher (*Megasceryle alcyon* (Linnaeus)). Not as common as one would expect with all the favorable habitat available. They are, however, regular summer residents.

Red-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes cafer* (Gmelin)). Common where nesting sites are available, especially near habitations where hardwood trees are commonest.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius* (Linnaeus)). Common summer resident, preferring areas with aspen groves, which offer ideal nesting sites.

Hairy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos villosus* (Linnaeus)). Fairly common breeding bird of the higher forested areas. A pair was nesting in the Silent City of Rocks area on June 21.

Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus hespericola* (Oberholser)). An uncommon breeding bird, restricted to aspen, poplar, and willow groves along the Snake River. A male was taken at Greene's Trout Farm on August 1.

Arkansas Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis* Say). A fairly common breeding bird, tending to inhabit the agricultural areas more frequently than other areas.

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya* (Bonaparte)). A fairly common breeding bird of the canyons and rocky areas. One was observed nesting on the rafters of an occupied store in Almo, Cassia County, on June 21.

Flycatchers (*Empidonax* spp. Cabanis). Many of these small flycatchers were seen in almost every type of habitat. No doubt several species are represented in southern Idaho. No specimens were taken so I did not attempt to make positive identifications.

Wood Pewee (*Contopus richardsoni* (Swainson)). One of the most common birds of this group, found in the stream bottoms where large poplar, aspen, and willow grow.

Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris* (Linnaeus)). Common to abundant in sagebrush areas. A single bird was seen on the top of Mt. Harrison, Cassia County, on June 21. This bird could possibly represent a different race than those breeding at the lower altitudes.

Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina* (Swainson)). A common breeding bird in areas where natural or artificial nesting sites are found.

Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor* (Vieillot)). A pair was observed nesting in an old woodpecker hole at the Silent City of Rocks on June 21. Later in the summer these birds, with the other species of swallows, became extremely abundant around reservoirs and lakes where they were starting to flock for the southward migration.

Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia* (Linnaeus)). A common breeding species especially along the many irrigation canals and coulees.

Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis* (Audubon)). Not too common, but widely spread, a pair generally occurring wherever there is a likely habitat.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica* (Linnaeus)). Common breeder, especially in the farming areas where buildings and sheds are available for nesting sites.

Oregon Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota arophata* Oberholser). This recently described race is possibly the most abundant bird in southern Idaho. It nests in large colonies along the Snake River breaks and elsewhere when cliffs or substitutes are present. A male was taken near Buhl, Twin Falls County, on June 16.

Raven (*Corvus corax* Linnaeus). Generally distributed over the southern portion of the state, but in no one place is it common.

American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos* Brehm). Common summer resident, especially in agricultural areas.

Clark's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana* (Wilson)). Uncommon, found only in the higher areas. Two were seen on Mt. Harrison on June 21.

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon* Vieillot). Fairly well distributed, breeding bird. Several were seen in the Silent City of Rocks on June 21.

Long-billed Marsh Wren (*Helminthophila palustris* (Wilson)). Extremely restricted, they are found only where large amounts of cattails (*Typha latifolia*) grow. The only two spots where they were seen were at Gray's Lake on July 17 and at Greene's Trout Farm on August 1.

Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus* (Say)). Common breeder in rocky canyons and outcrops.

Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus* (Townsend)). Common breeder on sagebrush plains.

American Robin (*Turdus migratorius* Linnaeus). Common breeder in river bottoms and agricultural districts.

Hermit Thrush (*Hylocichla guttata* (Pallas)). Uncommon summer resident in the higher wooded areas. Two were observed at the Silent City of Rocks on June 21 and several more were seen at Ida Vada on July 24.

Mountain Bluebird (*Sialia currucoides* (Bechstein)). Uncommon summer resident found only in the higher areas. Several were seen at the Silent City of Rocks on June 21.

California Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus gambeli* Ridgway). Fairly common breeder in the sagebrush plains. During the breeding season, this species is extremely shy and hard to observe so that a person not familiar with its habits would classify it as rare. Three birds were collected: one at Hollister, Twin Falls County, on June 28, one at Jerome on June 30, and one at Hollister on July 19.

Warbling Vireo (*Vireo gilvus* (Vieillot)). Fairly common in the poplar-aspen river bottoms and creeks.

Virginia's Warbler (*Vermivora virginiae* (Baird)). In the proper habitats, this bird is fairly common as a breeding species. At least four pairs were observed at the Silent City of Rocks on June 21. On this date Thomas Burleigh took the following specimens: #12176 ♂, #12177 ♀, and #12178 ♂. They seem to be closely restricted to the hillsides of mountain mahogany, (*Cercocarpus ledifolius*).

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia* (Linnaeus)). Fairly common breeder, even nesting in the larger cities.

Audubon's Warbler (*Dendroica auduboni* (Townsend)). Fairly common breeder in the higher regions where conifers are available for nesting sites.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens* (Townsend)). Fairly common in the extreme south; it was found nesting in junipers growing in creek bottoms near Ida Vada on July 24.

Macgillivray's Warbler (*Oporornis tolmiei* (Townsend)). In this part of the state this bird appears to favor dense thickets along streams and creeks. In these niches they are common nesters.

Northern Plains Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas campicola* Behle and Aldrich). Fairly common breeder, especially in the tule-covered marshes. One was collected near Buhl, Twin Falls County, on July 20.

Chat (*Icteria virens* (Linnaeus)). Common summer resident in brushy areas along streams and creeks.

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla* (Linnaeus)). I saw an immature bird at Jerome on July 7. It was apparently an early migrant or straggler from the breeding range farther north.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (Linnaeus)). Very restricted in habitat, the species appears to favor high marshy areas and large mountain meadows. It was seen only at Gray's Lake, on July 17.

Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta* Audubon). Abundant breeding bird, occurring in almost every habitat except in forests.

Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus* (Bonaparte)). During the nesting season this species is restricted to areas where tules are present. In such marshes they nest in large colonies; later, after the young are flying, they gather in large flocks and tour the agricultural areas.

Red-wing (*Agelaius phoeniceus* (Linnaeus)). Abundant, breeding wherever favorable space is available. Birds taken in the south-central areas have been identified as *A. p. nevadensis* Grinnell, Nevada red-wing. A male of this species was taken at Jerome on July 4. Other races are thought to be the breeding birds farther east in the state.

Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullockii* (Swainson)). Common in poplar-aspen river bottoms and in agricultural areas where poplars are present.

Western Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus alaiastus* Oberholser). Extremely abundant; a close second to the cliff swallow in numbers. One was collected at Hollister on June 17.

Cowbird (*Molothrus ater* (Boddaert)). I saw three birds at Jerome on June 6 and none after that. They should occur more frequently, and possibly do earlier in the year when they deposit their eggs; after that, they probably move out of the area.

Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana* (Wilson)). I saw several at Stanley, Custer County, on August 14. They were the only birds of this species seen in this part of the state.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Phainopepla melanoccephalus* (Swainson)). Uncommon breeder in agricultural areas and wooded draws; especially fond of apple orchards for nesting sites.

Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena* (Say)). Common breeder in wooded draws and stream bottoms.

Cassin's Finch (*Carpodacus cassinii* Baird). Fairly common summer resident in the higher coniferous forests.

House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus* (Muller)). Fairly common breeder in farming regions, towns, and even cities.

Pine Siskin (*Spinus pinus* (Wilson)). Common summer resident in the higher altitudes where conifers offer nesting sites.

Green-tailed Towhee (*Chlorura chlorura* (Audubon)). Fairly common summer resident in the higher sagebrush zones; common at the Silent City of Rocks.

Nevada Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis nevadensis* Grinnell). Common in moist grassy meadows, especially around Gray's Lake where a specimen was taken on July 17.

Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus* (Gmelin)). Common breeder in the sagebrush plains.

Western Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus strigatus* Swainson). Fairly common, nesting in the sagebrush areas, more frequently near irrigation canals and coulees. A female was taken near Jerome on July 16.

Idaho Sage Sparrow (*Amphispiza belli campicola* (Oberholser)). Though this race is probably generally distributed through most of southern Idaho, I could locate only one area, near Jerome, where they could be found. I collected three individuals: a female on July 7, and a male and an immature female on July 20.

Pink-sided Junco (*Junco oreganus mearnsi* Ridgway). Common at higher elevations in the coniferous zones. Thomas Burleigh took several specimens at the Silent City of Rocks and also at Mt. Harrison on June 21. This species and the following one appear to inter-breed in the general area of Cassia County, although typical individuals of both were taken.

Gray-headed Junco (*Junco caniceps* (Woodhouse)). I saw this species once only, on a ridge covered with juniper and mountain mahogany in the Silent City of Rocks on June 21. Mr. Burleigh took two individuals on this date at the Rock City.

Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina* (Bechstein)). Common in most habitats, except the sagebrush flats.

Brewer's Sparrow (*Spizella breweri* Cassin). Abundant breeder in the sagebrush areas.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys* (Forster)). Uncommon, breeding in wooded draws and creek bottoms at higher altitudes. Burleigh collected a female (#12171) at the Silent City of Rocks on June 19.

Fox Sparrow (*Passerella iliaca* (Merrem)). Uncommon breeder in higher elevations, nesting usually near creeks or on brushy hillsides. A young bird was taken at the Silent City of Rocks on June 21 by Burleigh.

Montane Lincoln Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni alticola* (Miller and McCabe)). A fairly common breeding bird along brushy streams of the higher montane areas. A male was taken near Clayton, Custer County, on August 14.

Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia* (Wilson)). Common breeder in almost all regions, but especially so in the brush along rivers and creeks. A male, which is possibly referable to *M. m. montana* Henshaw, was taken at Magic Reservoir, Blaine County, on July 31.

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AN ABNORMALLY COLORED TOWNSEND CHIPMUNK

ARTHUR SVIHLA and EARL J. LARRISON

In the mammal collection of the State Museum at the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, there is a specimen (No. 6816) of the Townsend chipmunk (*Tamias townsendii townsendii*) which shows marked abnormal coloration. The label states that it was collected on the campus of the University of Washington, September 14, 1921, by W. B. Hipsley. It is not sexed and no measurements are given. The Townsend chipmunk is normally rufous brown in color with black dorsal and lateral stripes. In contrast, this specimen exhibits a general over-all grayness which upon detailed study reveals a more complicated coloration pattern than at first appears.

Not normally present in these chipmunks is a small patch of unpigmented hairs on the forehead between the eyes. The head, anterior to a transverse line through the front edges of the ears, is much lighter in color than normal. The typical pattern of relatively darker upper jaw, top of head between the eyes, and supraorbital and infraorbital cheek stripes is present, but also lighter in color. This paleness is apparently due to, first, the dilution of the actual coloring matter in the hairs with pigment, and second, to the presence of many interspersed unpigmented or white hairs. The latter seem to be about equal in number to the former.

The pelage of the neck region including the front edge of the shoulders forms a relatively wide ring even paler in color than the head region. Here the dilutely pigmented hairs are few and widely scattered among the more numerous unpigmented ones. The dark mid-dorsal stripe, which in normally colored individuals extends anteriorly along the neck to midway between the ears, is only very faintly discernible in this specimen.

The body, including the fore legs and sides back to the front of the hind legs, is lighter gray than the head region, but not as pale as the neck region. Similar to that of the head region, the normal pattern of dark and light stripes is present but lighter than normal in color, due to the presence of many dilutely pigmented hairs. The light lateral stripes are particularly pale. Throughout this body region there are about twice as many unpigmented hairs as pigmented ones. A rather abrupt line demarks the anterior and posterior edges of this area, although in some lights the lateral stripes can be faintly seen extending forward into the neck region. The hairs of the belly are entirely white, lacking the black bases which are so characteristic in the normally colored specimens. Hence, when the hairs are ruffled, the whole pelage of the belly is white.

The posterior region, including the rump, hind legs, and tail, is very similar to the neck region in paleness of color. Here again the unpigmented hairs outnumber the pigmented ones, resulting in the light gray appearance.

The claws and palmar tubercles are white, lacking the dark brown pigmentation of normally colored individuals.

This specimen is important not only because it shows coloration different from normal chipmunks of this species, but also because it reveals something of the complex hereditary makeup concerning their coloration previously hidden from us.

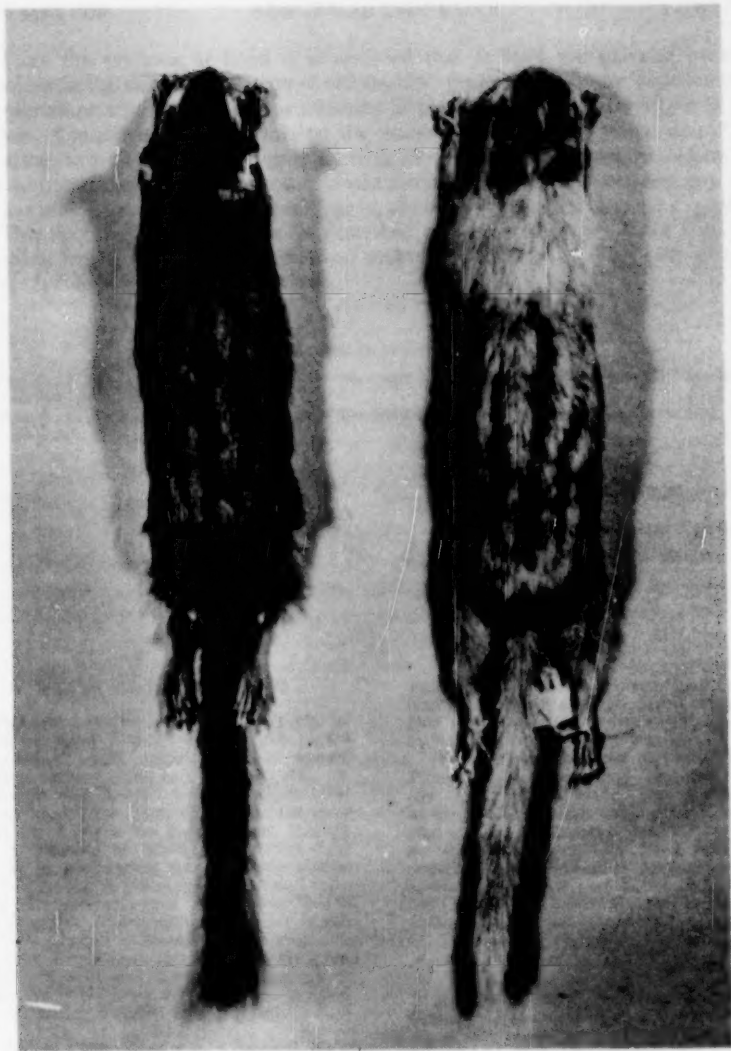
In general, mammalian coloration may be said to be due to melanin pigments present in the hair or skin (Little, 1913). These pigments occurring in the hairs

are of various kinds, black, brown, yellow; the combinations, arrangements; or absences of certain or all of these may bring about the general coloration of the individual as agouti, black, brown, white, etc. Genetically this phenomenon is known to be due to the interplay of several genetic factors or genes or to multiple factors. The normal coloration of the animal appears whenever all of a particular set of these genetic factors are present, whereas when one or more of these sets of genes are absent abnormal coloration results. At the present time very little is known about the inheritance of coloration in wild mammals but enough has been ascertained concerning this phenomenon in domestic mammals and those raised in the laboratory that the general principles of the inheritance of coloration in these animals may be applicable to wild animals.

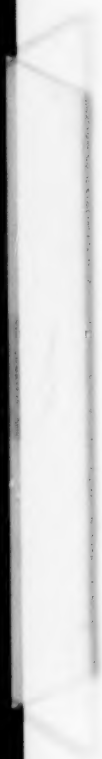
It has been found in mammals such as mice, rabbits, and guinea pigs that there is a basic gene designated as (*CC*) for the deposition of pigment regardless of its kind, amount, or distribution. The absence of this gene, or (*cc*), usually produces an albino or white individual in spite of the occurrence of any other gene or genes. The arrangement of the pigments in the individual hairs is due to the action of genes for the so-called wild or agouti pattern (*AA*) characterized by a banded appearance of the hair. Its recessive allele (*aa*) produces a uniformly colored hair. Others have to do with the different degrees of pigment concentration or deposition in each hair which therefore may be either intense (*II*) or dilute (*ii*), the latter giving a faded appearance. Some genes are apparently responsible for the design present on the body, such as stripes, etc. The action of other genes produces grayness or silver (*SiSi*) which is exhibited by the absence of pigment in some hairs and its presence in adjacent ones. Still other genes may also be present which may modify the number of these unpigmented hairs in relation to the neighboring pigmented hairs so that varying degrees of grayness may occur even in the same animal. The presence of relatively large unpigmented areas or white patches of the body may be due to the failure of the action of still other genetic factors (*ss*), so that the animal will appear as either spotted piebald or skewbald, depending upon the colors involved.

Allen (1914) described this last named type of pattern development in mammals. He stated that there were nine centers for the general pigmentation of the body, i.e., a single median coronal one which is normally manifested when it fails to function and a white star appears on the forehead; a pair of aural centers having to do with the pigmentation of each side of the head and the ears; a pair of nuchal centers controlling the pigmentation of the neck part of the body back to the front of the forelimbs; the two sides of the body between the fore and hind limbs under the influence of the pleural centers; and two sacral centers governing the pigmentation of the hind limbs and tail. When any of these centers fail to function properly, abnormal coloration results in the respective areas.

In this specimen the coronal "star" or patch is present; hence this center was not functioning for pigment deposition. The limits of the two aural centers are not only clearly indicated but in addition are modified by the genes for diluteness and grayness, since the hairs which do contain pigment are dilute and interspersed with silver or white hairs, the combination producing the grayness. The nuchal areas are also present but here the grayness is more apparent because of the greater number of silver hairs among the dilutely pigmented ones. The pleural sections show the same degree of gray dilute characters as the aural centers. The sacral regions are not only indicated very distinctly by a sharp line of demarcation from the pleural centers, but also because they resemble the nuchal ones in the greater degree of grayness.



An abnormally colored Townsend chipmunk.
Normal on left; abnormal on the right.



From the evidence at hand it is assumed that at least six pairs of genes are involved in the normal coloration of chipmunks: genes *CC* for color deposition, *AA* for agouti or wild pattern, *I* for intensity of pigmentation, *SiSi* for silver or gray, a pair of modifying genes involving the number of these gray hairs, and *SS* for spotting, as well as those having to do with the normal striped pattern. When these are all present as dominant genes, normal coloration occurs, but whenever any of the recessives of these genes are homozygous, abnormal coloration may be expected.

This specimen may therefore be described as a spotted, gray, dilute individual, possibly having the following genetical makeup: *CC AA sisi ii ss*, plus unknown genes for the normal striped pattern.

LITERATURE CITED

- ALLEN, G. M. 1914. Pattern development in mammals and birds. *American Naturalist* 48: 385-415, 467-484, 550-556.
LITTLE, L. C. 1913. Experimental studies of the inheritance of color in mice. *Carnegie Inst. Wash. Bull. No. 179*: 13-102.

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NOTES FROM THE FIELD

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) at Medina, King County, Washington.—On January 2, 1950, while watching several flickers eating berries in a Madroña tree, my attention was directed to six blackish birds flying toward me. They alighted in the trees near those where the flickers were feeding. At a distance of about 70 feet the light specks on the starlings were plainly visible, as well as the brownish head and short tails. The bills were still very dark brown. This is the first time I have seen this species in this district. Medina is located on the east side of Lake Washington, not far from the place where Bennett and Eddy saw starlings in January, 1949 (*Murrelet* 30: 18).—WALTER HAGENSTEIN, Medina, Washington.

Barred Color Pattern in a Juvenile Western Crow.—During the summer of 1948 I collected a juvenile western crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) near Carlton, Okanogan County, Washington, which showed a very unusual color pattern. Feathers of the ventral and spinal tracts appeared obscurely barred as the result of a light grayish band near the distal end of each feather. Both the primary

and secondary wing feathers and the tail feathers showed a single band, also. The bird had apparently recently left the nest, as it could fly only short distances.

The specimen was sent to Dr. Frank A. Pitelka of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, who replied that he did not believe this color pattern had any phylogenetic significance, but was probably an abnormality resulting from briefly arrested or disturbed feather development. The specimen is now a part of the collection of the Charles R. Conner Museum at the State College of Washington.—DEREK D. EARP, U. S. Forest Service, Twisp, Washington.

Albinistic Barn Swallow in Benton County, Oregon.—It seems worth while to report the observation of an "albino" barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) in southern Benton County, Oregon, on August 29, 1947.

The bird was observed with and without binoculars from a distance of less than 75 feet. It was feeding over a marshy area with many normal barn swallows. The albino was constantly chased by the other swallows.—FRED G. EVENDEN, JR., and ROBERT M. STORM.

GENERAL NOTES

Notes on Common Murres Nesting in British Columbia.—That common murres (*Uria aalge inornata* Salomonsen) nest on the British Columbia coast has previously been accepted primarily on the basis of egg records in the British Columbia Provincial Museum and upon the assumption that, since they nest to the south off the Washington coast and to the north in Alaska, then surely they must nest somewhere in the great stretches of apparently suitable habitat occurring along Canada's west coast.

There are ten eggs of this murre in the Provincial Museum collection as follows: four taken at Triangle Island by William Burton on June 20, 1900; one taken from Triangle Island on July 15, 1909, also by Burton; four from the same island collected by C. F. Newcombe on July 13, 1913; and one collected by Newcombe in June, 1898, and labeled "West Coast of Vancouver Island." In 1930 Cummings took a fully formed egg from the oviduct of a murre on Langara Island in the Queen Charlotte group (*Murrelet* 12: 15). In 1948 the writer observed murres roosting at the north end of Langara Island but obtained no breeding records.

A review of the literature indicates that practically nothing has been published on the subject of the nesting of this race in British Columbia. The only account appears as two egg records in Munro and Cowan, "Review of the Bird Fauna of British Columbia" (British Columbia Provincial Museum, Special Publication No. 2, 1947). It is a brief mention of Burton's 1909 Triangle Island record, and Cummings' oviduct specimen previously mentioned. In view of this apparent lack of published nesting data concerning a bird so characteristic of our coast, the Provincial Museum of British Columbia sponsored an expedition to Triangle Island to substantiate existing records and to determine to what extent this race is using the island as a breeding site.

Triangle Island is located about 40 miles northwest of Cape Scott at the northern tip of Vancouver Island. It is roughly triangular in shape, about one mile long by about three-quarters of a mile wide measured from the extremities. Steep slopes dominated by salmon berry (*Rubus spectabilis*) rise off a rocky seashore which is interrupted by sheer cliffs and outcropping rocks. The highest point on the island is 600 feet above sea level. Travel over the island is difficult due to the gradient and to the density of the dwarfed salmon berry. The brows and slopes of some hills are for the main part covered with tussocks of coarse grass, a species of *Deschampsia*.

The soil surface of the island is perforated by the burrows of breeding Cassin anklets (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*) and tufted puffins (*Lunda cirrhata*), representing the largest colonies of the two species so far recorded for British Columbia. Pigeon guillemots (*Cephus columba*), fork-tailed and boreal petrels (*Oceanodroma furcata* and *O. leucorhoa*), pelagic cormorants (*Phalacrocorax pelagicus*), black oyster-catchers (*Haematopus bachmani*), glaucous-winged gulls (*Larus glaucescens*), bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Peale's falcons (*Falco peregrinus pealei*), song sparrows (*Melospiza melodia*), fox sparrows (*Passerella iliaca*), and winter wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) also use the island for nesting.

The murres were found nesting in large numbers. At the time of our visit, June 25 to July 1, 1949, several rocky peninsulas, islets, and headlands of the main island were covered at their crowns and down the slopes with hundreds of murres. The population was conservatively estimated to number about three thousand birds.

On the grassy cliff edges and tops of the southwestern peninsula (an island at high tides), 300 feet above the sea, the eggs were found, each one attended by the two adults. Approximately two hundred pairs were found actually nesting, in two widely separated groups. All specimens of eggs examined on the breeding grounds were fresh, with their exteriors clean. Cloacal examination of females indicated the eggs had been deposited very recently. W. Maguire, well-known British Columbia oologist, who handled and prepared the nineteen eggs collected, found no sign of incubation. No downy young were observed. It seems reasonable to assume that the actual laying of eggs had only recently begun and that in all probability the birds observed roosting on the pinnacles would be nesting very soon. In fact it is very likely that many, if not all of these birds, were already nesting on the many cliff faces that we were unable to examine. However, no eggs were observed on the occupied rocky pinnacles examined through field glasses when the birds were flushed by gun shot.

Further investigations will undoubtedly reveal that the nesting population of murrens on Triangle and adjacent islands is much larger than the estimated three thousand here recorded. There is also a possibility that this murre may be found nesting in small numbers on the west coast of Vancouver Island, which is as yet relatively unexplored.—C. J. GUIGUET, *Provincial Museum, Victoria, B.C.*

Red-breasted Merganser in Eastern Washington.—On March 26, 1949, Dr. Irven O. Buss and the writer observed three male red-breasted mergansers (*Mergus serrator*) on the Columbia River, two miles above Pateros, Okanogan County. The birds were closely checked with the aid of binoculars as they swam near the shore of the river, accompanied by five Barrow's golden-eyes (*Bucephala islandica*). A few minutes earlier four females seen on the river near the Chelan-Okanogan county line appeared to be red-breasted mergansers. The female mergansers were with a flock of 42 ducks, mostly Barrow's golden-eyes.

Apparently red-breasted mergansers have not been reported recently on the east side of the Cascade Mountains. There are two old published records for the species. William Leon Dawson, in "A Preliminary List of the Birds of Okanogan County, Washington (*Auk* 14: 171, 1897), says they are "Common at Chelan, where they are found throughout the year." J. B. Hurley in "An Annotated List of Yakima County Birds (*Murrelet* 2 (1): 14, 1921) lists it as "Common resident, breeds in mountains."

This seems to be another case where a species is accepted as occurring generally in an area. When the literature is examined, however, few exact references can be found.—CHARLES F. YOCOM, *Zoology Department, State College of Washington, Pullman.*

Parasitic Birds.—From time to time instances of one species of bird parasitizing another are recorded. To them can be added the following instances: horned grebe (*Colymbus auritus*) and surf scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*); glaucous-winged gull (*Larus glaucescens*) and Pacific loon (*Gavia arctica pacifica*). The observations were made near Comox, Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Two instances can be recorded in the case of the grebe and scoter. The first time two grebes were swimming on each side of, and close to, the scoter, which was judged to be a young male as it lacked the white markings on the head. Each time the scoter dived, down went the grebes. On returning to the surface, the grebes immediately swam toward the scoter and took up their positions at the sides of the scoter, or strung out just behind it. I saw this repeated at least five times. Then the birds became mixed with other scoters and ducks. The scoter was feeding a hundred or so yards offshore, well below lowest tide mark. This spot is a favorite feeding ground for scoters and there are generally one or two horned grebes there, as well. The birds seemed to stay under for unusually long periods for the particular species. The scoter was the first to surface, and the grebes always came up close to it.

The other instance occurred off the same stretch of beach, but as there was a year between observations, it was probably a different grebe. This time there was only one grebe. Again the scoter was not fully adult. The birds were less than a hundred yards away, and as they were the only birds in the immediate vicinity, I had an uninterrupted view. The grebe was swimming close to the scoter. As the scoter dove it was followed at once by the grebe, sometimes almost before the scoter was below the surface. During the half hour I had the birds under observation there were at least twenty dives, and with two exceptions the scoter was the first to submerge. Generally both birds surfaced simultaneously. If the grebe reached the surface any distance away, it at once swam toward the scoter, and took up its position as rear guard. On the two occasions when the grebe was the first to dive, it had surfaced away from the scoter. On the next surfacing, however, it was close to its host. Only once was there any evidence that the grebe was getting food. Once when it surfaced there was what looked like a small piece of seaweed in its beak. What happened below the surface is of course unknown. I suggest that the scoter, in probing about, dislodged smaller food material that was taken by the grebe.

It is notable that in both cases the scoter was immature, and that both occurrences took place in the spring. The scoters showed no resentment at the actions of the grebes, but went on with their normal feeding. In the second instance, after the birds ceased diving, they remained within a few yards of one another, preening.

In the case of the glaucous-winged gulls and the Pacific loons, the loons were feeding in quite shallow water where a creek enters the sea. There were seven loons strung out parallel to the shore line and they appeared to be finding plenty of food. There were several gulls around, resting on the surface, but only a few were interested in the loons. The gulls appeared to be "waiting" on the loons, watching for some of the fry or other food to be driven to the surface. Then they would plunge in after it. While I was looking there were several instances of this practice. It was impossible to see whether the gulls obtained any food, or what it was they were after. The gulls never attempted to molest the loons, which had no distrust of the gulls. In fact, they would often surface right among the floating gulls, and swim with them. The gulls were mature birds; again the time was in the spring.—THEODORE PEARSE, COMOX, B.C.

A Preliminary Report on an Endourethral Cast in Beaver.*—During 1948-1949 when trapping in eastern and western Washington for the State of Washington Department of Game, I took 110 beaver (*Castor canadensis*). Approximately 20 per cent of the males had what appeared to be an endourethral cast more or less blocking the urethra.

This cast is usually mushroom-like in shape with a cap and stem. The cap when present protrudes from the penis and varies greatly in shape. Some caps completely ensheath the end of the penis. Others are globular heads or leaf-like structures. The stem extends up the urethral tract and usually has an enlarged end. This end was so enlarged in some beavers that it could not be forced through the urethral tube. However, I found no inflammation of this tract. A few of these beavers were very thin and in poor condition.

The stem of this structure is about as brittle as the stalk of a newly sprouted bean, but becomes tough when preserved in formalin. It is creamy white.

This obstruction apparently begins its formation near the external opening of the urogenital tract. Several young beavers were found to have presumably an incipient particle lodged at that location. The larger casts were found in the older beavers.

The variation in form and the noncellular appearance indicates that this cast may be a coagulation of seminal fluid. Dr. D. R. Cordy of the College of Veterinary Medicine at the State College of Washington states that "The specimen from the beaver, when sectioned and stained, was almost entirely amorphous material with a few cells . . . it is presumably coagulated semen or secretion from some of the accessory sex glands," Dr. I. McT. Cowan of the University of British Columbia suggests that this coagulation " . . . arises as the result of the mixing, post mortem in the urethra, of the vesicular secretions with the secretions of one of the other accessory glands." However, the occurrence of the casts in all male members of the colonies in which it was found suggests other possibilities.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has additional information on these endourethral casts.—GARDINER F. JONES, *Clemens Tree Farm, Elma, Washington.*

*I wish to acknowledge my appreciation for helpful suggestions toward this study from Dr. George E. Hudson, Dr. D. R. Cordy, and Dr. I. McT. Cowan.

Grizzly Bear Killed in Washington.—In letters of June 6 and September 7, 1949, Mrs. Guy W. Brash of Spangle, Washington, has kindly offered certain information on a male grizzly bear killed by her sons Guy E. (age 15) and Gary (age 16), accompanied by Aaron Broesch (age 17). The boys shot the bear, estimated to weigh 700 pounds, on October 26, 1948, on the headwaters of Watch Creek, in the extreme northeast corner of Pend Oreille County. They took measurements of the tanned skin as follows: tip of tail to tip of nose, 6 feet, 11 inches; spread of front legs, claw to claw, 7 feet, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; left hind claw to right front claw, 8 feet, 11 inches. The boys are having the trophy mounted. I have a photograph of the dead bear on a travois behind a horse, but the photograph was taken during a snowfall and is not sharp enough to publish.

From the location of the kill, I assume that the bear is *Ursus canadensis* Merriam 1914. The type locality of this species is Moose Lake, near Mt. Robson, B. C.—VICTOR B. SCHEFFER, *United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Seattle, Washington.*

Porpoises Assembling in the North Pacific Ocean.—Virgil J. Roberts, third officer of the *S. S. Oregon*, was enroute from San Francisco to Manila on July 13, 1949, in Lat. 43° 07' N., Long. 139° 03' W. (about 750 miles west of Medford, Oregon) when he "sighted off the port bow a large school of porpoise lining the water in perfect sequence over an area of 1400 square yards. The school was flanked in columns approximately ten feet apart with 30 feet between columns. To estimate number exactly would seem difficult, however, numerically somewhat over 5,320. The type seemed typical of the large black porpoise inhabiting the regions of the North Pacific Ocean measuring from six to eight feet in length. The school moved in a northwesterly direction at an approximate speed of twenty-five knots as observed by radar." The *Oregon* was traveling WNW $\frac{1}{4}$ W at 14 knots on a smooth sea through scattered fog banks; air temperature 65° F., seawater 63° (letter of July 30, 1949).

I cannot identify the porpoises seen by Mr. Roberts nor can I explain the assembling of so many in one place. Perhaps they were moving northwest to summer feeding grounds along the Aleutian Islands; perhaps they were following a great school of fish or squid to which they had individually been attracted.

A similar group of porpoises was seen many years ago in the North Pacific by Dr. Willis H. Rich, who writes in a letter of October 26, 1949: "One summer, about 1920 or 1930, I was returning from Western Alaska on a commercial steamer and we passed through an enormous aggregation of porpoises. This was in the Gulf of Alaska between Seward and Cape Spencer. . . . The porpoises were travelling along in the same general direction as the ship—eastward—and surrounded the ship for several minutes—perhaps for fifteen or twenty minutes. I don't know whether they outran the ship or the ship outran them but they eventually disappeared. While we were in the midst of the school the animals were to be seen breaking the surface on both sides of the ship and fore and aft for a distance of perhaps a quarter of a mile. Alongside of the ship there might be ten or a dozen at the surface at one time. I do not recall making an estimate of the number in the school—which would have been difficult anyway—but I feel sure that there must have been several thousand. I did not, and do not, know the species; but I recall distinctly that there were conspicuous white patches on the sides, the general color, of course, being black." [The species was quite certainly *Phocoenoides dalli*, the most commonly seen porpoise in the Gulf of Alaska.]—VICTOR B. SCHEFFER, *U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Seattle*.

ADDITIONS TO SOCIETY LIBRARY

NATIONAL WILDLIFE AND CONSERVATION
DIGEST, published monthly by Pike and
Kaerne, 184 Lanark Street, Winnipeg,
Canada. Sub. Rates, Canada and U. S. A.:
1 year, \$3.00; 2 years, \$5.00; single copies,
50c.

The aim of this publication, launched in
January, 1950, is to bring together pertinent
information concerning wildlife and
conservation throughout the North American
Continent. It is modeled after other
small-sized "digest" magazines, and carries
a wide variety of subject matter. It is printed
on "slick" paper, with plastic-protected
cover. Volume I, No. II, has 112 pages, and
a number of short notes in boxes.

STANFORD, J. K. 1949. *The Owl Birds*.
Devin-Adair Co., New York. 90 pp. Black
and white illustrations by A. M. Hughes.
Cloth. \$2.00.

This story first appeared in 1948 in *Black-
wood's Magazine* under the title *Bledgrave
Hall*. It is woven about the return of the
European avocet to England as a breeding
bird after an absence of 123 years. In actual
life the breeding site was a carefully guarded
secret, and groups of volunteers from Oxford
kept a 24-hour vigil over the eggs and the
fledgling birds. The story concerns the re-
turn of a weary soldier to the war-battered
marsh farm of his uncle. The villain is an
avid egg collector. There is a cops-and-rob-
bers sequence guaranteed to keep one on the
edge of his chair.

The author is one of England's top ornithologists and a writer of great sensitivity. The book is beautifully produced, and will appeal particularly to bird enthusiasts who are concerned about our own threatened species. It is a highly recommended gift book.—**MARTHA R. FLAHAUT.**

JOHNSTONE, WALTER B. 1949. *An Annotated List of the Birds of the East Kootenay, British Columbia*. British Columbia Provincial Museum, Victoria. Occ. Papers No. 7. 87 pp. Photo-offset. 1 map, 20 habitat photos. Paper. 75c.

The area concerned is bounded on the east by the province of Alberta, on the west to about longitude 116°, 50', including Revelstoke and Lower Arrow Lake, from the International Boundary line to about 52° north latitude. It is an important addition to the growing numbers of faunal lists.

[JOLLIE, MALCOLM T., comp.] 1950. *Bird Specimens in the University of Idaho Collection and a Provisional List of the Birds of the State*. University of Idaho, Department of Biological Sciences, Moscow. Mimeographed. 57 + 2 pp.

This "rough preliminary draft" was hurriedly prepared for use in the course in ornithology. About one-half of the collection of 940 specimens represents the work of Earl J. Larrison and Malcolm Jollie during 1949. The other specimens were collected from 1937 to January 1, 1950, by students and staff members. The field observations of many workers are included. The status of birds in Idaho is imperfectly known at present, and this paper is planned as a basis for a complete treatise to be issued later. According to a circular letter from Malcolm Jollie accompanying the list: "Any corrections, additions or information on Idaho birds . . . would be appreciated."

COMMENTS AND NEWS

In the tragic death of Ellsworth D. Lumley, the Society has sustained a great loss. Apparently in good health, Mr. Lumley died suddenly on February 10, 1950. He joined the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society in 1929, soon after he moved to Seattle from Montana, and was Secretary in 1937, a position he relinquished after one year because of pressure of other activities in which he was deeply interested. He was a crusader on behalf of a fair trial for predators, and became nationally known for his work. A more fitting tribute is being prepared for publication at a later date.

The officers of the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society recently entered into an agreement with University Microfilms

of Ann Arbor, Michigan, to make available to libraries issues of *The Murrelet* in microfilm form. The reproduction of periodicals in microfilm is an attempt to solve the growing storage problems in libraries. Microfilm makes it possible to produce and distribute copies of periodical literature on the basis of the entire volume in a single roll, at a cost approximately equal to the cost of binding the same material in a conventional library binding. Sales are restricted to those subscribing to the paper edition, and the film copy is only distributed at the end of the volume year.

The microfilm is in the form of positive microfilm, and is furnished on metal reels, suitably labeled. Inquiries concerning purchase should be directed to University Microfilms, 313 N. First Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The following note is a little late, but may still be of interest. In the spring of 1949 the Northern Rocky Mountain Wildlife Conference was reorganized to include the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, and the Province of British Columbia. A rotation for meetings in the participating states was set up. There are no elected officers of the Conference, each host state being responsible for developing the program. The spring, 1950, conference was to be held in Wyoming, with Mr. Warren Allred, Afton, Wyoming, in charge. The present group has no official connection with the Wildlife Society.

SOCIETY MEETINGS

DECEMBER, 1949.—A regular meeting was held in Howarth Hall, College of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington, on December 10, 1949, with First Vice President Murray L. Johnson presiding.

Mrs. Flahaut read a report from Arthur Svihla and Victor B. Scheffer on the advisory ballots regarding a change in the date of the annual meeting and a change in the name of the Society. Of 200 ballots sent out, 38 were returned. Twenty-six were in favor of holding the annual meeting in spring; 9 were in favor of the meeting in January; 3 expressed no choice. It was assumed that those who did not return the ballots had no preference. The committee had made a survey of the catalogues of institutions in the Pacific Northwest whose staff members might be affected. The majority of institutions were on a semester basis, and had their spring vacations at approximately the same time. Since this recess fluctuates from year to year, it was suggested that the date of the annual meeting be selected to coincide with these dates. Members on the staff of the University of Washington, or in the vicinity of Seattle, would not be seriously inconvenienced by having the meeting at this time. Most seri-

ously inconvenienced would be the members on the staff of the Oregon State College. In response to the second question on the advisory ballot, a change in name of the Society, 21 were in favor of retaining the present name; 12 were in favor of "North-west Bird and Mammal Society"; 1 for "Caurinus Club"; and 1 for "shortening the name."

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the report of the committee be accepted and filed, and that the ballots be destroyed. Further action was postponed until a later meeting.

Elizabeth Curtis, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for 1950: *President*, Murray L. Johnson; *First Vice President*, Gordon D. Alcorn; *Secretary*, Margaret A. Ivey; *Treasurer*, Garrett Eddy; *Trustee* (3 years), Webster H. Ransom. No nominations had been received for Regional Vice Presidents, so the names of Russell T. Congdon for the Inland Region, Ian McT. Cowan for British Columbia, and Stanley G. Jewett for Oregon, would stand in their respective regions.

The following persons were elected to membership: Jack Cowan, Puyallup, Washington; Dr. David T. Hellyer and Robert Simons of Tacoma, Washington; Lois Crowe, Kelso, Washington; June Madeline Poffenberger, Longview, Washington; and Michael Throckmorton, Lewiston, Idaho. Dr. A. C. Jerstad of Puyallup, Washington, was reinstated as a member.

Dr. Jerstad spoke briefly on "Crop Worms in Domestic Flocks of Turkeys," and asked that collectors of wild birds cooperate with the Western Washington Experiment Station by sending to the Station the intestinal tracts of wild birds which might be suspected of carrying this serious parasite.

Leo K. Couch of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service was the speaker of the evening. His subject was "Facts Relating to Conservation of Wildfowl of the Pacific Flyway."

At the conclusion of the program the members enjoyed a social hour with refreshments, and examined the collections of the Puget Sound Museum of Natural History.—MARGARET A. IVEY, *Secretary*.

JANUARY, 1950.—The Annual Meeting of the Society was held in the Walker-Ames Lounge in Vernon Parrington Hall, University of Washington, Seattle, on January 14, 1950, following an unprecedented blizzard. About 25 members braved the elements to attend. Vice President Johnson opened the afternoon session at 2:30 p.m., as President Carl was delayed by the storm.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read, approved, and ordered filed. The Auditing Committee, Gordon D. Alcorn and Margaret A. Ivey, reported that the

Treasurer's books had been examined and had been found to be in good order.

The Treasurer gave an analysis of the costs of printing *The Murrelet* from 1944 to the present year. The Editor explained that not only had publishing costs risen, but that four to eight pages had been added. The matter of printing fewer copies per issue was discussed, but it was explained that the greatest cost was in typesetting, and that additional reserve copies could be run off without much additional cost. There are an over-supply of some numbers, but in some volumes the reserve is becoming short. After further discussion this matter was referred to the Publications Committee for final decisions.

The afternoon program consisted of a talk by Victor B. Scheffer on "Dolphins, Little-known Mammals of the Pacific," illustrated by lantern slides.

Russell T. Congdon showed his latest motion pictures of the Malheur Wildlife Refuge. Because several scheduled speakers were unable to be present, Dr. Congdon consented to show a film of the elk in the Jackson Hole area, Wyoming, during winter. Few of the members present had seen this film when it was shown at the meeting in Moscow, Idaho.

After a short recess the meeting adjourned to Raitt Hall for dinner at 6:00 p.m. Because of the deep snow, the scheduled banquet had been canceled, and those who attended carried cafeteria dinners to the private room. The small gathering of 25 persons compensated for the lack in numbers by their enthusiasm.

After dinner, President Carl paid special tribute to the charter members, since this was the thirtieth anniversary of the organization. Leo K. Couch and Stanley G. Jewett, two of the charter members, were present and contributed interesting information about the early members.

The following persons were elected to membership: Jane C. Dirks-Edmunds, McMinnville, Oregon; C. Wesley Clanton and Richard C. Snyder, Seattle, Washington; Otto William Geist of College, Alaska, was re-instated.

The ballots were spread and the tellers reported that the following officers had been elected: *President*, Murray L. Johnson; *First Vice President*, Gordon D. Alcorn; *Secretary*, Margaret A. Ivey; *Treasurer*, Garrett Eddy; *Trustee for Three Years*, Webster H. Ransom; *Vice President for British Columbia*, Ian McT. Cowan; *Vice President for the Inland Region*, Russell T. Congdon; *Vice President for Oregon*, Stanley G. Jewett.

Walter J. Eyerdam spoke on "Some Highly Specialized Adaptations in Certain Species of Mammals and Birds," and illustrated his talk with specimens.

Karl W. Kenyon showed some colored

motion pictures taken the past summer of "Wildlife in the Far North."—MARGARET A. IVEY, Secretary.

FEBRUARY, 1950.—A regional meeting was held in Eliot Hall, Reed College, Portland, Oregon, on February 18, 1950. Trustee James A. Macnab opened the afternoon session in the absence of Stanley G. Jewett, Vice President for Oregon, who was ill.

As some of the members and officers from the Puget Sound area were delayed, the business meeting was postponed until after the program, which consisted of the following papers: "Pitfalls in the Identification of Birds," by Dr. Richard Bond; "Door-yard Birds," by Alex Walker; "Ecology of Crater Lake National Park" (illustrated by colored slides), by Bayard F. Walker. Dr. C. Andersen Hubbard spoke on the value of the study of fleas in connection with plague control, and called on Drs. C. Wesley Clanton and Murray L. Johnson to explain their research on the sagebrush vole (*Lagurus*).

Dr. Jane C. Dirks-Edmunds brought up the subject of the Tri-County hunt soon to be conducted on predators. Phil W. Schneider clarified the position of the Oregon State Game Department in respect to such affairs. He stated that where the officials of the Game Commission had explained their attitude to the different sportsmen's groups they had found these organizations very cooperative. More public education is needed.

A business meeting was then called to order by President Murray L. Johnson.

The following persons were elected to membership: Frank H. Harbert, Pullman, Washington; James Robert Norris, Longview, Washington; and John Poysky, Clatskanie, Oregon. Resignations of the following members were accepted: Wm. B. Davis, College Station, Texas, and Edward C. Wilber, Everett, Washington.

President Johnson read the proposed changes in the constitution pertaining to the date of the annual meeting.

A resolution was passed expressing the loss sustained by the Society in the sudden death of Ellsworth D. Lumley, former Secretary, member since 1929, and nationally known in conservation work. The Secretary was instructed to send a copy of the resolution to Mrs. Lumley.

About 40 members and guests enjoyed dinner in the Commons at Reed College, after which they inspected the biological laboratories until 8:00 p.m., when the evening meeting convened.

Phil W. Schneider of the Oregon State Game Commission showed colored and sound motion pictures of flight characteristics of waterfowl, some in slow motion, prepared by "Ducks Unlimited."—MARGARET A. IVEY, Secretary.

MARCH, 1950.—A regular meeting was held in the auditorium of the headquarters building of the State of Washington Department of Game, Seattle, Washington, on March 25, 1950, following an inspection of the new plant.

The President announced that the Executive Board had approved the following dates for future meetings: October 14, November 11, and December 9. The places of meeting are to be determined later. The following committees had been approved: *Publications*: James A. Macnab, Elizabeth Curtis, Ruth Dowell Svihla, Jane C. Dirks-Edmunds, Thomas D. Burleigh; *Program*: Garrett Eddy, George E. Hudson, Ralph W. Macy.

The Secretary reported that the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Pacific Division, would be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 19-23, and that our Society had again been invited to hold a joint meeting with the Cooper Club. The Secretary was instructed to send a preliminary announcement to find out how many members would be able to attend and to present papers.

The following persons were elected to membership: Mrs. Herbert Stanton Griggs, Herbert Stanton Griggs, Jr., and Marcus C. Huntley of Tacoma, Washington; Mrs. G. H. Sabine, Seattle, Washington; Karl E. Herde, Richland, Washington; Charles Dale Snow, McMinnville, Oregon; and Jack C. von Bloeker, Los Angeles, California. The resignation of Leonard Wing was accepted.

The changes in the By-laws, pertaining to the shifting of the annual meeting date from January to April, were brought up for final action, and were approved.

The President reported that Stanley G. Jewett had asked to be relieved of the vice presidency for Oregon because of ill health. Mr. Jewett had proposed Ralph W. Macy of Reed College to fill the vacancy. Alex Walker had also written, urging the nomination of Dr. Macy. It was moved, seconded, and carried that Mr. Jewett's resignation be accepted with regret. Dr. Macy was then elected to the unexpired term.

The program was furnished by staff members of the Washington State Department of Game, with Burton K. Lauckhart in charge. The following papers were presented: "History and Problems of Waterfowl Studies in Washington," by Raleigh Moreland; "History of Snow Geese Population in the Skagit River Area," by Robert Jeffries; "Black-tailed Deer Research at Clemens Tree Farm," by John Roberts; "General Problems of Game Management," by Burton K. Lauckhart.

The meeting adjourned for a social hour, with coffee and doughnuts.—MARGARET A. IVEY, Secretary.

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BY THE

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PUBLICATION COMMITTEE—Martha R. Flahaut, *Editor*; Gordon D. Alcorn, *Associate Editor of Ornithology*; Ian McT. Cowan, *Associate Editor of Mammalogy*; James A. Macnab, *Chairman*, Thomas D. Burleigh, Elizabeth Curtis, Jane C. Dirks-Edmunds, Ruth Dowell Svihla.

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PACIFIC NORTHWEST BIRD AND MAMMAL SOCIETY

Founded January 7, 1920

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